

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An ink cartridge, comprising:
 - a case having a first surface on the outside of the case and a second surface on the outside of the case in mutual opposition, the first surface being open;
 - a first cover for covering the first surface;
 - a partitioning wall for separating the interior of the case into a first chamber and a second chamber;
 - an ink supply hole that is formed in a wall which defines the second chamber and is in direct communication with the second chamber;
 - an ink filling hole formed in the first cover, the ink filling hole communicating with the second chamber; and
 - a pressure reduction hole formed in the first cover, the pressure reduction hole directly communicating with the first chamber, wherein the first chamber and the second chamber communicate with each other near the second surface inside the case such that ink is filled in the first chamber through the second chamber from the ink filling hole.
- 2-45. (Cancelled)
46. (Previously Presented) The ink cartridge according to claim 1, wherein an ink discharge hole for discharging ink from the first chamber or the second chamber is formed in the second surface of the case.
47. (Previously Presented) The ink cartridge according to claim 46, wherein the second surface is also open, a second cover is provided for covering the second surface, and the ink discharge hole is formed in the second cover.

48. (Previously Presented) The ink cartridge according to claim 47, wherein an atmosphere connection hole for communicating with the first chamber is formed in the second cover.

49. (Previously Presented) The ink cartridge according to claim 46, wherein the ink filling hole and the pressure reduction hole are closed off by a first sealing material applied to the first cover; and

the ink discharge hole is closed off by a second sealing material applied to the second surface so that the second sealing material can be peeled away.

50. (Previously Presented) The ink cartridge according to claim 49, wherein an atmosphere connection hole for communicating between the inside and outside of the case is formed in the second surface, and the atmosphere connection hole is blocked off by the second sealing material that can be peeled away.

51. (Previously Presented) An ink cartridge, comprising:

a case having a first surface on the outside of the case and a second surface on the outside of the case in mutual opposition, the second surface being open;

a partitioning wall formed integrally with the case and extending from the first surface toward the second surface for separating the interior of the case into an ink chamber for holding ink and an atmosphere connection chamber, the ink chamber and the atmosphere connection chamber being open on the second surface side; and

a cover which is a separate part from the case and is joined to the case at the second surface for covering the second surface, the cover having an ink supply hole formed therein, which communicates with the ink chamber, wherein one end of the atmosphere connection chamber communicates with the ink chamber on the first surface side to communicate air between the ink chamber and the atmosphere connection chamber, and the other end of the atmosphere connection chamber communicates with the outside of the case.

52. (Previously Presented) The ink cartridge according to claim 51, wherein the cover covers the open surfaces of the ink chamber and the atmosphere connection path, and has a connecting hole for communicating with the atmosphere connection path.

53. (Previously Presented) An ink cartridge, comprising:

a case having a first surface on the outside of the case and a second surface on the outside of the case in opposition, the first and second surfaces being open;

a partitioning wall formed integrally with the case and extending from the first surface toward the second surface for separating the interior of the case into an ink chamber for holding ink and an atmosphere connection path communicating to the outside of the case, the ink chamber being open on the first surface side and the second surface side;

a first cover which is a separate part from the case and is joined to the case and the partitioning wall at the first surface for covering the first surface of the case, the first cover, the case and the partitioning wall forming a path for communicating air between the ink chamber and the atmosphere connection path, wherein a part of the path is directly above a part of a lower surface of the cover;

a second cover which is a separate part from the case and is joined to the case at the second surface for covering the second surface of the case; and

an ink supply hole formed in the second cover so as to communicate with the ink chamber.

54. (Previously Presented) The ink cartridge according to claim 53, further comprising a second partitioning wall for dividing the ink chamber into a first chamber for accommodating a porous material absorbing the ink and a second chamber holding ink, wherein one of the first chamber and the second chamber is covered by the first cover and the other of the first chamber and the second chamber is covered by the second cover.

55. (Cancelled)

56. (Previously Presented) An ink cartridge, comprising:

a cartridge case having a first side wall and a second side wall opposed to the first side wall;

a first partitioning wall positioned substantially parallel to the first side wall of the cartridge case between the first side wall and the second side wall; and

a second partitioning wall positioned substantially parallel to the first side wall of the cartridge case between the first side wall and the second side wall, the first partitioning wall and the second partitioning wall separating the interior of the cartridge case into a first chamber, a second chamber and an atmosphere connection path with both the first chamber and the second chamber accommodating ink and the atmosphere connection path communicating with an atmosphere outside the case, wherein one end of the second chamber communicates with one end of the first chamber for communicating the ink between the first chamber and the second chamber via the first partitioning wall, and one end of the atmosphere connection path communicates with the other end of the first chamber for communicating substantially only air between the atmosphere connection path and the first chamber via the second partitioning wall and the other end of the atmosphere connection path is open to the outside of the case.

57. (Previously Presented) The ink cartridge according to claim 56, wherein the atmosphere connection path is formed between the first side wall and the second partitioning wall, and the second chamber is formed between the second side wall and the first partitioning wall.

58. (Previously Presented) The ink cartridge according to claim 56, wherein there is an ink supply hole for supplying the ink to the recording head located near one end of the second chamber, and the ink in the first chamber passes through the second chamber and is supplied to the recording head from the ink supply hole.

59. (Previously Presented) The ink cartridge according to claim 58, wherein the other end of the first chamber is open, the open part is covered by a first cover, the one end of the second chamber is open, the open part is covered by a second cover, and the ink supply hole is formed in the second cover.

60. (Previously Presented) The ink cartridge according to claim 57, further comprising, inside the case, a third partitioning wall that is joined to the lower ends of the first partitioning wall and the second partitioning wall while extending in a direction substantially perpendicular to the first side wall, wherein the first chamber is divided by the second and third partitioning walls, and a connecting hole for connecting the first and second chambers is formed in the third partitioning wall.

61. (Previously Presented) The ink cartridge according to claim 60, wherein the other end of the first chamber is open, the open part is covered by a first cover, an ink filling hole for connecting the second chamber and the outside of the case is formed in the first cover, the one end of the second chamber is open, the open part is covered by a second cover, and an atmosphere connection hole for communicating with the atmosphere connection hole is formed in the second cover.

62. (Previously Presented) The ink cartridge according to claim 1, wherein the second chamber is formed between one side wall of the case and the partitioning wall and at least one portion of the one side wall is transparent or semi-transparent.

63. (Previously Presented) The ink cartridge according to claim 62, wherein the first chamber has a larger capacity than the second chamber and accommodates a porous material absorbing the ink.

64. (Previously Presented) The ink cartridge according to claim 63, wherein the first surface is configured by the first cover attached to the case.

65. (Previously Presented) The ink cartridge according to claim 62, wherein an inner surface of the transparent or semi-transparent part of the one side wall has undulating ribs extending vertically up and down.

66. (Currently Amended) An ink cartridge, comprising:

a cartridge case having a top wall including an upper ease surface on the outside of the case and a lower ease surface on the outside of the case;

a partitioning wall for separating the interior of the cartridge case into a first chamber for holding ink and an atmosphere connection chamber for communicating with an atmosphere outside the case ~~on the upper ease surface, one end of a top surface of the~~ partitioning wall is joined to the upper ease lower surface; and

a path for connecting the first chamber and the atmosphere connection chamber, formed in the ~~upper ease surface~~ top wall, wherein the path and the first chamber are connected via a surface which does not contain an intersection line formed by the intersection of the ~~upper ease lower surface and a~~ the top surface of the partitioning wall, wherein a part of the path is above the lower surface.

67. (Currently Amended) The ink cartridge according to claim 66, wherein a porous material absorbing ink is accommodated in the first chamber, a projecting part that projects to the inside of the first chamber is formed ~~on the upper surface of the case~~ in the top wall, at a position apart from the partitioning wall, and the projecting part pushes against the porous material in the first chamber.

68. (Currently Amended) The ink cartridge according to claim 66, wherein the path is formed by a concavity in the top wall that extends on the outside surface of the upper surface of the case, extending from the first chamber to the atmosphere connection chamber, a first hole connecting the concavity and the first chamber, a second hole connecting the

concavity and the atmosphere connection chamber, and sealing material covering the concavity.

69. (Cancelled)

70. (Previously Presented) The ink cartridge according to claim 54, wherein the first chamber communicates with the atmosphere connection path near the first surface, and communicates with the second chamber near the second surface, and the second chamber communicates with the ink supply hole.

71. (Previously Presented) An ink cartridge, comprising:

a case having a first surface on the outside of the case and a second surface on the outside of the case in opposition, the first and second surfaces are open;

a partitioning wall for separating the interior of the case into an ink chamber for holding ink and an atmosphere connection path communicating to the outside of the case, wherein the ink chamber is open on the first surface and the second surface sides;

a first cover for covering the first surface of the case so that a path is formed for communicating between the ink chamber and the atmosphere connection path; and

a second partitioning wall for dividing the ink chamber into a first chamber for accommodating a porous material absorbing ink and a second chamber holding ink, wherein one of the first chamber and the second chamber is covered by the first cover and the other of the first chamber and the second chamber is covered by a second cover which covers the second surface of the case.

72. (Previously Presented) A method of forming an ink cartridge, comprising:

providing a case having a first surface on the outside of the case and a second surface on the outside of the case in mutual opposition, the second surface being open;

forming a partitioning wall integrally with the case and extending from the first surface toward the second surface for separating the interior of the case into an ink

chamber for holding ink and an atmosphere connection chamber, the ink chamber and the atmosphere connection chamber being open on the second surface side; and

joining a cover which is separate from the case to the case at the second surface for covering the second surface, the cover having an ink supply hole formed therein, which communicates with the ink chamber, wherein one end of the atmosphere connection chamber communicates with the ink chamber on the first surface side to communicate air between the ink chamber and the atmosphere connection chamber, and the other end of the atmosphere connection chamber communicates with the outside of the case.

73. (Previously Presented) A method of forming an ink cartridge, comprising:

providing a case having a first surface on the outside of the case and a second surface on the outside of the case in opposition, the first and second surfaces being open;

forming a partitioning wall integrally with the case and extending from the first surface toward the second surface for separating the interior of the case into an ink chamber for holding ink and an atmosphere connection path communicating to the outside of the case, the ink chamber being open on the first surface side and the second surface side;

joining a first cover which is separate from the case to the case and the partitioning wall at the first surface for covering the first surface of the case, the first cover, the case and the partitioning wall forming a path for communicating air between the ink chamber and the atmosphere connection path;

joining a second cover which is a separate part from the case to the case at the second surface for covering the second surface of the case; and

forming an ink supply hole in the second cover so as to communicate with the ink chamber.

74. (New) The ink cartridge according to claim 53, wherein the path is formed by a concavity in the first cover, extending from the first chamber to the atmosphere connection

chamber, a first hole connecting the concavity and the first chamber, a second hole connecting the concavity and the atmosphere connection chamber, and sealing material covering the concavity.